

Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Enriching Our Native Way of Life

111 W. 16th Avenue, Suite 400 / Anchorage, Alaska 99501-5109 / (907) 278-3602 / fax (907) 276-3925

June 15, 2012

Lisa Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Dennis McLerran
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region X

Via electronic mail: Jackson.lisa@Epa.gov,
McLerran.dennis@Epamail.epa.gov

Re: Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Dear Administrator Jackson and Region X Administrator McLerran,

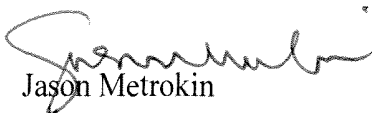
I write to request that you timely complete the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. Bristol Bay residents have lived long enough with the uncertainty created by the proposed Pebble mine, and the important scientific work reflected in your draft assessment provides critical information to inform timely decisions about such mining in our region.

I am aware that you have received requests to extend the comment period on the assessment. EPA has done an admirable job of informing the public about its assessment and the opportunity to comment on it. Further, your current sixty-six day public review and comment period equals or exceeds the review and comment periods provided by the State of Alaska in its administrative processes related to mining in Alaska and land planning in the Bristol Bay region. For comparison purposes, a summary of public comment periods for mining and land management decisions in Alaska accompanies this letter. The existing watershed assessment comment period is more than sufficient to allow for meaningful public review and participation.

Thank you again for your robust draft watershed assessment and its associated hearing and comment process. I also include for your reference our summary of hearing results, which shows that an astounding 93% of the testimony in the Bristol Bay region (80% across all hearings, Seattle and Anchorage included) supported the EPA and its watershed assessment.

Please finish your important work with due speed, and assist us in protecting Bristol Bay.

Sincerely,



Jason Metrokin

Atts.

**Summary of Public Comment Periods on Various Mining-Related and Land Management
Decisions in Alaska**

Kensington Gold Mine – 2004

EPA/COE and State of Alaska NPDES; CORPS section 10 and section 404 permits; State tideland leases,, temporary road closure, fish passage permits, water right authorizations – 45 days. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/7e2e3ea2d0fb300d89256eba00746f97?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,Kensington>

Pogo Mine – 2003

State notice of permits for: gravel sales, surface lease, access road, powerline, millsite lease – 22 days. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/227592fc81f7c40689256d02006083ba?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,Pogo,Mine>

Renewal – 2011 Amended Plan of Operations – 30 days. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/3f4e5f5dd479b6de8925796400693676?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,Pogo,Mine>

Greens Creek Mine Waste Disposal Permit (2000) -- 45 day comment. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/09bec3dcc5ce6392892569840063e04b?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,Greens,Creek;>

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/7296c52da0a6f93e8925699f007cfadb?OpenDocument&Highlight=0,Greens,Creek>

Red Dog Mine Alaska Coastal Management Program Review of Exploration (2000) – 16 days. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/ea3f08b1d637f37b892568c70002a4d2?OpenDocument>

Red Dog Mine Area Shallow Gas Lease (2000) – 60 days. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/17ce48dd95559a71892568dd005de6da?OpenDocument>

Fort Knox - 2000

Decisions:

- DNR Proposed Decision to Issue True North Mine Project Millsite Lease and Proposed True North Mine Project Millsite Lease 416509. The Millsite Lease authorized by AS 38.05.255 will allow surface use of state land.
- DNR Proposed Right-of-Way Decision for True North Project Road ADL 416471. This Right-of-Way in conjunction with an authorization from the Mental Health Land Trust Office will provide access between the True North Project and the Fort Knox Project.
- DNR Proposed Right-of-Way Decision for a GVEA powerline to the True North Mine Project ADL 416477.
- FGMI Proposed True North Project Description and Reclamation Plan (submitted to constitute the True North Project Plan of Operations) requiring DNR approval. FGMI must have an approved True North Plan of Operations.
- DEC Proposed Solid Waste Disposal Permit (00031-BA008) Fort Knox Mine Tailing Disposal. This permit provides the procedures that FGMI and DEC will follow to authorize off-site ore to be processed at the Ft. Knox facility.
- DNR Proposed Decision to Issue Addendum to Fort Knox Millsite Permit and Proposed Addendum to Fort Knox Millsite Permit ADL 414960 & 414961. This Addendum allows FGMI to accept and process at the Ft. Knox facility ore originating from lands other than those currently allowed pursuant to the terms of the Millsite Permit.

Public Meeting July 2000 – public meeting 17 days notice; comments 30 days. See <http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/829841ef60a326d58925691f007fd08a?OpenDocument>

Supplemental Public notice- Response to Comments Document -19 days. See <http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/62f16b4e6146daf6892569600063006c?OpenDocument>

Extension of Public Comment period on processing of off-site ore - 18 days. See <http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/ca816d0862e61b028925696e00614837?OpenDocument>

Mine expansion – 26 days to comment. See <http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/9f35358516c5a3f089256b4b00061887?OpenDocument>

DNR; DEC; Corps of Engineers Permits to add a leach heap gold recovery facility– 30 days.
See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/3cb45046f0fcc6e08925719c006e382f?OpenDocument>

Air Quality Control Operating Permit – 30 days to comment. See

<http://notes5.state.ak.us/pn/pubnotic.nsf/6132da015d9ca2fe89256785006af393/2cedcf2962f21792892568eb0065730d?OpenDocument>

Summary of Alaska Archived Public Notices Related to “Bristol Bay Area Plan” (BBAP)

10-22-03: Announcing public meeting for BBAP and Nushagak-Mulchatna Rivers Recreation Mgmt Plan (part of BBAP) revision process -- False Pass 11-7-03.

11-5-03: Announcing public meetings for the BBAP revision process -- Naknek 11-17-03, King Salmon 11-18-03, Dillingham 11-20-03.

12-5-03: Public notice of BBAP revision & notice of Anchorage public meeting -- 1-7-04.

8-30-04: Announcing public comment period on public review draft of BBAP & NMRRMP, deadline 10-15-04, and public hearings – Anchorage 9-9-04, Naknek 9-14-04, Pilot Point TBA, King Salmon 9-21-04, Dillingham 9-22-04, New Stuyahok 9-23-04, Sand Point 9-28-04, Iliamna-Newhalen TBA.

9-23-04: Update of 8-30-04 public notice identifying date and time for public meeting for Iliamna-Newhalen as 10-7-04.

10-11-04: Extending public comment period deadline from 10-15-04 to 11-15-04.

1-7-05: Based on public comment, recommending revisions to BBAP, and taking additional public comment until 2-8-05.

5-12-05: Adopting BBAP & Nushagak-Mulchatna Rivers Recreation Mgmt Plan.

EPA Draft Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment Public Hearings Summary of Initial Results

ALL HEARING TOTALS:

Meeting Attendees:	~2294
People Testifying :	453
Testimonies supporting EPA and watershed assessment:	364
% or Total testifiers that support EPA and assessment:	80.3%

BRISTOL BAY REGIONAL HEARING TOTALS

Meeting Attendees:	~964
People Testifying :	275
Testimonies supporting EPA and watershed assessment:	258
% or Total testifiers that support EPA and assessment:	93.8%

HEARING-BY-HEARING BREAKDOWN

Seattle, May 31, 2012

- > ~330 people in attendance.
- > 71 people testified, with 81% (58 of 71) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Anchorage, June 4, 2012

- > ~1,000 people in attendance.
- > 107 people testified, with 45% (48 of 107) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Dillingham, June 5, 2012

- > ~325 people at DLG hearing.
- > 90 people testified and 100% were supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Naknek, June 5, 2012

- > ~280 people at Naknek hearing
- > 61 people testified, with 93% (57 of 61) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Levelock, June 6, 2012

- > ~60 people present.
- > 25 people testified and 100% were supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Igiugig, June 6, 2012

- > ~75 people present.
- > 25 people testified, with 88% (22 of 25) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

New Stuyahok, June 7, 2012

- > ~124 people present.
- > 41 people testified, with 92% (38 of 41) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

Nondalton, June 7, 2012

- > 100 people present.
- > 33 people testified, with 79% (26 of 33) supportive of EPA and watershed assessment.

**For information on the manner in which these numbers were collected please contact:
Daniel Cheyette, Attorney, Bristol Bay Native Corporation. (907) 278-3602**